TABLE OF CONTENTS
SH2177347

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Officer Involved Shooting

Report Date:	Bureau/Station/Facility:	Admin. Invest.?	Hit?
08/01/2006	Compton Sheriff's Station	☐	☒

Incident Information

URN: 006-12956-2874-013	Date: 08/01/2006 Time: 1942 Hours
City or Station: Compton Sheriff's Station	Nature of Incident: Officer involved Shooting
Location: Parmelee Avenue/ 142nd Street , Compton Ca.	

Location Type (*circle one or more*): Backyard, Beach, Business, Freeway, Industrial, Park, Parking Lot, Residence, Rural, School, **Street** (circled), Other: ____

Lighting (*circle only one*): Darkness, **Daylight** (circled), Other, Street Lights

Weather (*circle only one*): **Clear** (circled), Cloudy, Fog, Rain

Distance: 10-15 feet

Incident Type (*circle one or more*): Accidental, **Armed Person** (circled), Fleeing Suspect, Foot Pursuit, Gun Take Away, **Moving Vehicle** (circled), Sniper/Ambush, Startle, Struggle Involved, Traffic Stop, Unarmed Person, Unintentional, **Vehicle Pursuit** (circled), Warrant Service, Warning Shot, Other: Vehicle Weapon

Initiated by (*circle only one*): Arrest Warrant, **Call** (circled), Observation, One Person Unit, Other, Search Warrant, Two Person Unit

Prior Activity (*circle only one*): Detective, Inmate Transport, Other, **Routine Patrol** (circled)

Total # of Shots Fired by Deputy	Total # of Shots Fired by Suspect	Aero Unit?	Canine Unit?
7	0	☒	☐

Employee Witnesses

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	ShiftTime (*circle only one*)	ShiftType (*circle only one*)
[redacted]	Amaya	Robert		EM **PM** (circled) Day	**Regular** (circled) Overtime Off Duty
				EM PM Day	Regular Overtime Off Duty
				EM PM Day	Regular Overtime Off Duty

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	M.I.		
[redacted]				
Street Address	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Work Ph**	**Home Ph**
Last Name	**First Name**	**M.I.**		
Street Address	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Work Ph**	**Home Ph**
Last Name	**First Name**	**M.I.**		
Street Address	**City**	**Zip Code**	**Work Ph**	**Home Ph**

Supervisors

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.	(*circle one or more*)
[redacted]	Carter	Kerry		**On Duty** (circled), Present during shooting, Witness to shooting, Involved in shooting
[redacted]	Brothers	Jessica		**On Duty** (circled), Present during shooting, Witness to shooting, Involved in shooting

Watch Sergeant

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	Castano	Eric	

Watch Commander

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
[redacted]	O'Connor	Joseph	

PSTD Use Only

SH # ____________

Officer Involved Shooting

URN: 006-12956-2874-013

Rollout Information

Arrival Date	Arrival Time	Date Submitted	Date of Recommendation
07/29/2006	1435		

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I
[redacted]	Carr	Tim	
	Harris	John	
[redacted]	Parker	Michael	

Shooting / Force Information

Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton:(Control)
(BI) Baton:(Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds:(Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds:(Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds:(Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device:Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device:Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hand
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

Brand

(AK) AK-47
(BN) Benelli
(BR) Beretta
(BW) Browning
(CH) Charter Arms
(CO) Colt
(DA) Davis Industries
(GL) Glock
(HA) Harrington & Richardson
(HI) Hi Standard
(HK) H & K
(IT) Ithica
(IV) Iver Johnson
(JE) Jennings
(LO) Lorcin
(LU) Luger
(MA) Marlin
(MO) Mossberg
(NC) NCI aka SKS
(NA) North American
(NO) Norinco
(RA) Raven
(RM) Remington
(RG) RG
(RI) RGI
(RO) Rossi
(SW) Smith & Wesson
(SR) Sturm Ruger
(ST) Sterling
(TA) Taurus
(WE) Weatherby
(WN) Winchester
(US) US Government
(YY) Handmade (Inmate)
(XX) Homemade (Non-Inmate)
(ZZ) Other Brand

Caliber

(9) 9 mm
(10) 10 mm
(12) 12 guage
(20) 20 guage
(21) .22-250
(22) .22 caliber
(23) .223 caliber
(24) .243 caliber
(25) .25 caliber
(30) .308 caliber
(35) .357 caliber
(36) 30-60 caliber
(38) .38 caliber
(40) .40 caliber
(41) .410 guage
(44) .44 caliber
(45) .45 caliber
(50) 50 mm
(SL) Slug
(WW) Other caliber

FORCE APPLIED *(one code per block)*

Used By (E# or S#)	Used Against (E# or S#)	Method (Code)	Brand (Code)	Caliber (Code)	Authorized Weapon? (Y/N)	Authorized Ammunition? (Y/N)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
S	E1	OV					DH	CH
E	S	FH	BN	9	Y	Y	AB	HI



Officer Involved Shooting
Involved Employee Information

URN: 006-12956-2874-013

Involved Employee

E 1

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name: Wheeler	First Name: James	M.I.: A
Sex: M Race: W	Rank: Deputy	Unit Assignment: Compton/CIT	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 280NZ
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): EM (PM) Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): (Regular) Overtime Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used: None
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☒	Coroner Case # 2006-05945 — Interviewed? ☒
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting: 6	Duty Time (hrs): [redacted]	Clothing (*circle only one*): Plain Clothes no Vest, Raid Jacket w/ Vest, Plain Clothes w/ Vest, Uniform no Vest, Raid Jacket no Vest, (Uniform w/ Vest)	Other Factors:
Age: [redacted] Height: 6-0 Weight: 235			
Range Qualification Date: [redacted]	PPC Qualification Date: [redacted]	Laser Training Date: [redacted]	
Certified with Weapon Used? [redacted]	Patrol Certification? [redacted]	Certification Unit: [redacted]	Prior Shootings? [redacted] Number of Prior Shootings: [redacted]
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	M.I.

E__

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Sex: Race:	Rank	Unit Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): EM PM Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): Regular Overtime Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case # — Interviewed? ☐
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting:	Duty Time (hrs):	Clothing (*circle only one*): Plain Clothes no Vest, Raid Jacket w/ Vest, Plain Clothes w/ Vest, Uniform no Vest, Raid Jacket no Vest, Uniform w/ Vest	Other Factors:
Age: Height: Weight:			
Range Qualification Date:	PPC Qualification Date:	Laser Training Date:	
Certified with Weapon Used? ☐	Patrol Certification? ☐	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings? ☐ Number of Prior Shootings:
Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.

E__

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Sex: Race:	Rank	Unit Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):
ShiftTime (*circle only one*): EM PM Day	ShiftType (*circle only one*): Regular Overtime Off Duty	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Hospital Admission? ☐	Hospital Name:	Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case # — Interviewed? ☐
Hrs of sleep prior to shooting:	Duty Time (hrs):	Clothing (*circle only one*): Plain Clothes no Vest, Raid Jacket w/ Vest, Plain Clothes w/ Vest, Uniform no Vest, Raid Jacket no Vest, Uniform w/ Vest	Other Factors:
Age: Height: Weight:			
Range Qualification Date:	PPC Qualification Date:	Laser Training Date:	
Certified with Weapon Used? ☐	Patrol Certification? ☐	Certification Unit:	Prior Shootings? ☐ Number of Prior Shootings:
Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Field Training Officer Emp #	Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Officer Involved Shooting Suspect Information

URN: 006-12956-2874-013

Suspect Information

S 1

Last Name: Taylor	First Name: Lawrence	M.I.: R
AKA Last Name: Scott	First Name: Kevin	M.I.

Sex: M Race: B	Street Address: [redacted]	City: [redacted]	State & Zip Code: [redacted]
Work Phone: [redacted]	Home Phone: [redacted]	Social Security #: [redacted]	Driver's License #: [redacted]
Age: 44 D.O.B. 12/20/61	Height: 5-9 Weight: 152	FBI #: [redacted]	CII #: [redacted]
Booking #: NONE	Primary Charge: Not Charged	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☒	Coroner Case #: 2006-05945	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used: Alcohol
Armed? ☒	Apprehended? ☒	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? [redacted]
Vehicle Make: Nissan		Model: Altima, 4-Door	Year: 1998

S __

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

S __

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

S __

Last Name	First Name	M.I.
AKA Last Name	First Name	M.I.

Sex: Race:	Street Address:	City	State & Zip Code:
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Social Security #:	Driver's License #:
Age: D.O.B.	Height: Weight:	FBI #	CII #
Booking #	Primary Charge:	Secondary Charge:	
Coroner Case? ☐	Coroner Case #	Intoxication/Drug Usage? ☐	Substance Used:
Armed? ☐	Apprehended? ☐	Mental Illness? ☐	Criminal History? ☐
Vehicle Make		Model:	Year:

See Other Side

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY
DEPUTY-INVOLVED-HIT SHOOTING
IAB SH2177347
URN 006-12956-2874-013

On August 1, 2006, at approximately 2015 hours, Sergeants Tim Carr, John Harris and Lieutenant Mike Parker of Internal Affairs Bureau responded to 142nd Street and Parmelee Avenue, Compton (Compton Sheriff's Station area) regarding a Deputy-Involved Hit Shooting. Sheriff's Homicide Bureau Investigators Sergeant Martin Rodriguez and Detective Angus Ferguson responded to the location and took control of the criminal investigation.

On August 1, 2006, at approximately 1921 hours, Deputy Daniel Martinez # [redacted] Unit 286D1/PM, initiated a vehicle pursuit of a "Reckless Drunk Driver" Northbound Wilmington Avenue and Poplar Street, Compton. The suspect vehicle failed to stop at a posted stop sign, continually drove on the wrong side of the roadway, drove onto a resident's front lawn, and almost hit several pedestrians. After six minutes and forty-five seconds, the Compton Station watch commander canceled the pursuit and authorized Sheriff's Aero Unit 23 to conduct a Surveillance Mode operation of the suspect vehicle. All Sheriff's units involved in the pursuit acknowledged the cancellation of the pursuit and terminated their involvement. The surveillance mode operation lasted for approximately thirteen minutes and ten seconds.

During the surveillance mode operation, Deputy Robert Amaya Unit 212D, was at Century Sheriff's Station when he heard a request for spike strips broadcast over the radio by Compton Station personnel. Deputy Amaya retrieved the spike strip and responded to 142nd Street and Parmelee Avenue, Compton. Deputy Amaya deployed the spike strip from the station on Parmelee Avenue, a few feet north of 142nd Street. The suspect's vehicle drove southbound on Parmelee Avenue and avoided the spike strip by driving around them. The suspect vehicle drove away and continued to drive around on streets in the immediate area. Deputy Amaya monitored his Sheriff's radio and heard that the suspect's vehicle was now traveling westbound on 142nd Street approaching Parmelee Avenue.

Deputy Amaya attempted to deploy the spike strip on 142nd Street, a few feet east of Parmelee Avenue. Deputy Amaya saw the suspect's vehicle traveling westbound on 142nd Street in the middle of the roadway. As Deputy Amaya was deploying the spike strip on 142nd Street, along the southwest coroner of 142nd Street and Parmelee Avenue, the suspect's vehicle swerved toward him. In fear for his safety, Deputy Amaya began running southbound toward the south curb line of 142nd Street. As Deputy Amaya was running toward the curb line, he lost his balance and almost fell down in the street on (142nd Street), in the path of the suspect's vehicle.

Deputy James Wheeler, Unit 280N2, was standing in front of a radio car parked along the north side of 142nd Street providing cover for Deputy Amaya as he attempted to deploy the spike strip. Deputy Wheeler saw the suspect's vehicle traveling toward Deputy Amaya. Deputy Wheeler stepped away from his position of cover in an effort to distract the suspect. Deputy Wheeler yelled out to the suspect to stop several times, but the suspect failed to comply. Deputy Wheeler, believing the suspect's vehicle was going to run over Deputy Amaya, fired several rounds at the suspect to stop him.

> **IAB Note:** News Media helicopters video taped the shooting and it was shown on Televison. Refer to **Exhibit F**.

The suspect's vehicle came to rest at the intersection of 142nd Street and Parmelee Avenue. The suspect was taken out of the vehicle and detained by Sheriff's deputies. Compton Fire Department Engine 41, under the command of Captain Curtis, administered first aid to the suspect. The suspect was transported to Saint Francis Hospital by ambulance and was treated by Paramedics Tobart and Laurel of Squad 41. The suspect was pronounced dead at Saint Francis Hospital by Doctor Anderson at 2026 hours. Refer to **Exhibit E** Under Pursuit Evaluation form, for a complete review of the pursuit and surveillance mode operation.

> **IAB Note:** During a portion of the pursuit and most of the surveillance mode operation, the suspect's vehicle was traveling within the area of Central Avenue to the west, 138th Street to the north, Wilmington Avenue to the east and Rosecrans Avenue to the south. The suspect appeared to be circling within this residential area. There were Sheriff's radio cars parked within this area, and radio cars were paralleling the suspect's vehicle on the streets in the residential area, but not in pursuit of the suspect's vehicle. Refer to **Exhibits C and D** for a map of the location.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL:

Wheeler, James, Deputy #[redacted]
Field Operations Region II
COPS Bureau (Community Impact Team)

EMPLOYEE WORK HISTORY:

Wheeler, James

Date of Employment	**06/21/89**
Date assigned to Patrol	[redacted]
Completed Patrol Training	
Prior Shooting Incident(s)	
Prior Founded Force Incidents	



SUSPECT:

Taylor, Laurence Ronnel MB/12/21/1961 Deceased

Suspect Taylor [redacted] A check of the CCHRS (Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System) revealed that Suspect Taylor (CII# [redacted] He has also been [redacted]

Suspect Taylor has been [redacted] In 1981 Suspect Taylor [redacted] Suspect Taylor was [redacted] under Sheriff's file # [redacted] Refer to the CCHRS and RAPS printouts included under **Exhibit A** inside Homicide Book, pages 82-122.

WITNESSES:

Sworn:

Amaya, Robert, Deputy # [redacted]
Field Operations Region II
Century Station

Flores, Joel, Deputy # [redacted]
Field Operations Region II
COPS Bureau (Community Impact Team)

Bolder, Vergilian, Deputy # [redacted]
Field Operations Region II
Compton Station

Vizcarra, Daniel, Deputy # [redacted]
Field Operations Region II
Compton Station

Terry, Clyde, Deputy # [redacted]
Field Operations Region II
Compton Station

Wolfhope, James, Deputy #[redacted]
Office of Homeland Security
Aero Bureau

Luther, Mike, Deputy #[redacted]
Office of Homeland Security
Aero Bureau

Fernandez, Christopher, Deputy #[redacted]
Leadership and Training Division
Recruit Training Bureau

Devane, Ann, Deputy #[redacted]
Field Operations Region II
Lomita Station

Molner, Bradd, Deputy #[redacted]
Field Operations Region II
Compton Station

Johnson, Christopher, Deputy #[redacted]
Field Operations Region II
Compton Station

<u>CIVILIAN WITNESSES</u>:

[redacted]

[redacted]

INJURIES:

Taylor, Lawrence, Suspect Deceased

Suspect Taylor sustained 4 gunshot wounds to the following areas:

(1) gunshot wound to the upper right back/shoulder (through and through, fatal, Re-entry wound to left bicep)
(1) gunshot wound to right elbow (through and through, non-fatal)
(1) gunshot wound to the left forearm (through and through, non-fatal)
(1) gunshot wound to the right thigh (non-fatal)

Suspect Taylor's alcohol level from his urine was measured at .10.

Doctor Solomon Riley of the Coroner's Office performed an autopsy and listed the cause of death as multiple gunshot wounds. Refer to Los Angeles County Coroner's report #2006-05945 (Refer to **Exhibit A,** Homicide Book, pages 125-139)

Suspect Taylor was treated at the scene by paramedics Tobart and Laurel from Compton Fire Department; Squad 41. The suspect was transported to Saint Francis Hospital by ambulance. Suspect Taylor was treated in the emergency room by Doctor Anderson and pronounced dead at 2026 hours on Tuesday, August 1, 2006.

Amaya, Robert, Deputy

As Deputy Amaya was deploying the spike strip, he tried to get out of the way of the suspect's vehicle. Deputy Amaya sprained his right knee during the incident, and treated at Long Beach Memorial Hospital and released.

Wheeler, James, Deputy

As Deputy Wheeler was shooting at the suspect, his feet got tangled with the spike strip and he fell on the ground. Deputy Wheeler received abrasions to his right elbow and hand. He also received a deep bruise to his right hip. Deputy Wheeler was treated at Long Beach Memorial Hospital and released.

Civilians:

No civilians were injured during the pursuit, surveillance mode operation or the officer involved shooting.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

Refer to Homicide Book, **Exhibit A**, pages 56-65 for Physical Evidence gathered at the crime scene and processed by the Sheriff's Crime Lab. The Crime Lab report is located in pages 66-81 of the same exhibit. The Coroner's Report are located in **Exhibit A,** pages 125-139. The crime scene sketches are located in the Homicide Book, **Exhibit A**, pages 71-72. Refer to the four photographs of the crime scene in **Exhibit B**.

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS OBSERVATIONS:

The physical evidence at the shooting scene (location of the deputy's shell casings, bullet hole damage to the suspect's car windshield, bullet strike damage, evidence recovered at the scene) appears to be consistent with the deputies' versions of the event. Refer to Homicide Book, **Exhibit A**, pages 57 -81. Also, refer to **Exhibit C** for photographs of the scene. There were no weapons recovered inside the suspect's vehicle. An open container of liquor "Boone's Farm Strawberry Daiquiri," one pint, approximately 3/4 full, was recovered inside the suspect's vehicle. Refer to **Exhibit A**, Homicide Book, pages 58-59.

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

Wheeler, James, Deputy
Departmental -issued service firearm; Beretta 92F, 9mm, serial #BERR[redacted]Z; seven (7) rounds of duty issue 9mm ammunition fired. Wheeler carried his weapon with fifteen (15) rounds in the magazine and one round (1) in the chamber. Following the shooting, he had eight rounds in the magazine and one round in the chamber. Deputy Wheeler's sixteen (16) rounds were accounted for and located. Wheeler was approximately 10-15 feet from the suspect's vehicle when he fired. Refer to Property Damage section for additional information. Also refer to the Crime Lab examination of Wheeler's weapon (**Exhibit A**, from Homicide Book, lab receipt #J800089, pages 79-81).

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT:

1998 Nissan Altima, four door, license #[redacted] brown in color. Refer to **Exhibit A** inside Homicide Book, page 66.

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

There was no property damage as a result of the pursuit or the shooting incident. Refer to **Exhibit A** inside Homicide Book, page 61. For damage to the suspect's vehicle, refer to **Exhibit A**, inside Homicide Book, pages 75-76. The spike strip was recovered by Deputy David Jacobson #[redacted]and transported to Compton Station. Refer to **Exhibit A** inside Homicide Book, page 58.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR and CHARGES FILED:

Investigator's Name	**Detective Angus Ferguson #[redacted](Homicide Bureau)** **Sergeant Martin Rodriguez #[redacted](Homicide Bureau)**
Court	**None**
Charges Filed	**None - Suspect deceased**
Court Date	**None**
Case Number	**None**

LIGHTING OR WEATHER CONDITIONS:

The weather was clear, dry and warm at the time of the shooting (approximately 1937 hours). At the time of the shooting, it was dusk and lighting was not a factor. There was an operative street lamp positioned on the southeast corner of 142nd Street and Parmelee Avenue. Refer to **Exhibit A**, inside Homicide Book, pages 60 and 71.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEES STATEMENTS:

Wheeler, James, Deputy

Deputy Wheeler was interviewed by Homicide Investigators Sergeant Martin Rodriguez and Detective Angus Ferguson on Wednesday, August 2, 2006. Refer to **Exhibit A** inside Homicide Book, pages 41-42. The following summary is from an Internal Affairs Bureau interview conducted by Sergeants Tim Carr and John Harris on Wednesday, March 7, 2007.

Deputy Wheeler was working unit 280N2/PM's, a no call radio car, with his partner Deputy Joel Flores. Deputy Flores was the driver and Deputy Wheeler was the bookman. Deputy Wheeler and his partner were assigned to the Compton Station Crime Impact Team(CIT). While patrolling the Compton Station area, Deputy Wheeler heard a pursuit over the Sheriff's radio of a reckless driver in the area of 142nd Street and Parmelee Avenue. Deputy Wheeler and Flores responded to the area.

The suspect's vehicle was traveling in and around the area of Central Avenue to the west, Rosecrans Avenue to the south, Wilmington Avenue to the east and 138th Street to the north. Deputy Wheeler and Deputy Flores waited at 142nd Street and Parmelee Street in preparation of setting up a containment or assisting in the containment for the suspect. Since the suspect was circling around the area, Deputy Wheeler believed the suspect was preparing to ditch his vehicle and run away or hide.

Deputy Wheeler believed several years ago, he might have seen a Sheriff's Department video on the deployment of spike strips. Deputy Wheeler doesn't remember being formally trained on the deployment of spike strips. Deputy Wheeler does not carry a spike strip in his radio car and has never deployed a spike strip on a prior occasion.

Deputies Wheeler and Flores saw Deputy Amaya arrive and assisted him with retrieving the spike strip from his trunk, and unraveling the spike strip and preparing to deploy it. Deputy Amaya deployed the spike strip the first time on Parmelee Avenue, just a few feet north of 142nd Street. The suspect vehicle drove southbound Parmelee Avenue toward 142nd Street and avoided the spike strip. He avoided it by turning toward the west side of Parmelee Avenue, and maneuvering around the spike strip. Refer to **Exhibit C** for a diagram of the intersection.

Deputy Wheeler heard, over the Sheriff's radio, that the suspect's vehicle was now traveling westbound on 142nd Avenue from Tajauta Avenue. Deputy Wheeler was standing in front of the front bumper of Deputy Amaya's radio car, which was parked along the north side of 142nd Street. Deputy Wheeler saw Deputy Amaya drag the spike strip from Parmelee Avenue onto 142nd Avenue. As Deputy Amaya was dragging the spike strip onto Parmelee Avenue, Deputy Wheeler saw the suspect's vehicle traveling westbound on 142nd Street approaching Parmelee Avenue.

Deputy Wheeler had positioned himself at the front portion of the radio car, with his arms extended forward and out, and his duty weapon pointed at the suspect's vehicle, to provide cover for Deputy Amaya as he deployed the spike strip. As the suspect's vehicle neared the intersection of 142nd Street and Parmelee Avenue, the suspect's vehicle made an abrupt turn toward Deputy Amaya who was deploying the spike strip on the southwest side of 142nd Street at Parmelee Avenue.

Fearing that the suspect was going to run over Deputy Amaya, Deputy Wheeler moved out of his position of cover and yelled out at the suspect to stop several times. As Deputy Wheeler moved away from the radio car, approximately three feet, he and the suspect made eye contact. The driver and passenger windows of the Suspect's vehicle were open as Deputy Wheeler ordered him to stop. As the suspect's vehicle continued toward Parmelee Avenue, Deputy Wheeler saw the suspect make a jerking motion with the steering wheel. The suspect was now steering the vehicle toward the southeast portion of 142nd Street, directly towards Deputy Amaya, who was deploying the spike strip.

Deputy Wheeler saw Deputy Amaya stumble and fall, and feared that the suspect was going to kill him with his car. Deputy Wheeler continued to yell at the suspect to stop, but the suspect failed to comply. Deputy Wheeler shot seven times at the suspect through the open front passenger window to stop him. After the shooting, Deputy Wheeler believed the suspect had struck Deputy Amaya with the car, because Wheeler could not see Amaya and he heard a clanging noise from underneath the suspect's vehicle.

As the suspect's vehicle continued traveling westbound on 142nd Street, the tires drove over the spike strip and whipped around Deputy Wheeler's legs, causing him to fall down onto the street. Deputy Wheeler immediately jumped up and tracked the suspect's vehicle with his arms extended forward and pistol pointed at the vehicle. Deputy Wheeler saw the suspect's vehicle finally stop and also saw several deputies extract the suspect from out of the front driver's seat. The suspect was handcuffed without further incident and Compton Fire Department administered first aid to him.

Deputy Wheeler was asked what was in the background when he fired his weapon. He said as he was looking southward at the suspect's vehicle, he saw a front yard to a residence with a wooden fence around it at the southeast corner of 143nd Street and Parmelee Avenue, behind the suspect's vehicle. Deputy Wheeler did not see anyone in the front yard and was unsure if he saw a house.

WITNESS STATEMENTS:

Amaya, Robert, Deputy

Deputy Amaya was interviewed by Homicide Investigators, Sergeant Martin Rodriguez and Detective Angus Ferguson on Wednesday, August 2, 2006. Refer to **Exhibit A** inside Homicide Book, pages 40-41. The following summary is from an Internal Affairs Bureau interview conducted by Sergeants Tim Carr and John Harris on Wednesday, March 7, 2007.

Deputy Amaya was standing in the parking lot of Century Sheriff's Station, when he heard a radio request for spike strip from Compton Station personnel. Deputy Amaya immediately acknowledged the request and retrieved the spike strip from the station equipment room. Deputy Amaya was working Unit 212D (a one-person unit) and responded authorized code-3 to the area of Parmelee Avenue and 142nd Street. Deputy Amaya parked his radio car on 142nd Street, just west of Parmelee Avenue, along the north curb line of 142nd Street. Refer to **Exhibit A** Homicide Book, pages 63 and 71.

Deputy Amaya retrieved the spike strip from the trunk of his vehicle and deployed the spike strip the first time on Parmelee Avenue, a few feet north of 142nd Street. The spike strip was deployed across Parmelee Avenue, in an east to west direction. Refer to **Exhibit D**. The suspect's vehicle drove southbound on Parmelee Avenue and veered to the west side of Parmelee Avenue, avoiding the spike strip. The suspect continued westbound on Parmelee Avenue and out of view.

Deputy Amaya stated that he had no formal training on the deployment of spike strips. Approximately four years ago, a fellow deputy familiarized him with the deployment procedures of the spike strip in a conversation. Deputy Amaya did not remember the deputy's name. Deputy Amaya deployed the spike strip on a prior occasion, but did not activate them. Deputy Amaya was unfamiliar with Field Operations Directive 98-10 Road Spike Deployment.

Deputy Amaya monitored the Sheriff's radio and heard that the suspect's vehicle was approaching 142nd Street. Deputy Amaya advised Deputy Wheeler, who was standing near him, that he was going to deploy the spike strip on 142nd Street, just west of Parmelee Avenue, in a north to south configuration. Deputy Amaya assumed by telling Deputy Wheeler where he was deploying the spike strip, that Deputy Wheeler would provide cover for him. Deputy Amaya dragged the spike strip from Parmelee Avenue to 142nd Street. As Deputy Amaya deployed the spike strip, he saw the suspect's vehicle moving on 142nd Street, at Albertson Avenue, he was unsure of the distance between himself and the suspect's vehicle.

Deputy Amaya deployed the spike strip and saw the suspect's vehicle make an abrupt turn toward him. Deputy Amaya feared that the suspect was going to run him over, so he ran toward the south curb line of 142nd Street, with the spike strip activation control in his hand. Simultaneously Deputy Amaya heard Deputy Wheeler yelling at the suspect vehicle's driver several times to stop.

Deputy Amaya saw the suspect's vehicle continue to travel westbound on 142nd Street toward him. As Deputy Amaya neared the south curb line of 142nd Street, he heard several gunshots and ducked his head. He then jumped onto the curb/sidewalk, twisting his knee in the process. Deputy Amaya did not see Deputy Wheeler shoot at the suspect.

Deputy Amaya was unsure if he activated the spike strip during the incident. Deputy Amaya saw the suspect's vehicle drive over the spike strip, causing a portion of the spike strip to whip around and strike Deputy Wheeler's legs. Deputy Amaya saw Deputy Wheeler get knocked down by the whipping motion of the spike strip and then immediately stand up and track the suspect's vehicle by pointing his pistol at the suspect. Deputy Amaya saw Deputy Wheeler pointing his duty weapon at the suspect's vehicle as it came to a stop. Deputy Amaya saw several deputies extract the suspect from the front driver's door of the vehicle. The suspect was handcuffed without further incident. Compton Fire Department personnel arrived and administered first aid to the suspect.

Flores, Joel, Deputy

The following summary is from the audio portion of the interview with Deputy Flores and Sheriff's Homicide investigators Sergeant Martin Rodriguez and Detective Angus Ferguson on Wednesday, August 2, 2006. Refer to **Exhibit A,** inside Homicide Book pages 42-43 for the Homicide Investigators written summary.

Deputy Flores was working Unit 280N2/PM's, a no call radio car, with his partner Deputy James Wheeler. Deputy Flores was the driver and Deputy Wheeler was the bookman. Deputy Flores and Deputy Wheeler heard a broadcast over the Sheriff's radio of a pursuit involving a "Reckless Drunk Driver." Deputy Flores and Deputy Wheeler responded to 142nd Street and Parmelee Avenue and attempted to join in the pursuit. There were several Sheriff's units already involved, so Deputies Flores and Wheeler canceled their involvement.

Deputies Flores and Wheeler parked their vehicle on the southeast corner of 142nd Street, a few feet west of Parmelee Avenue. Deputies Flores and Wheeler saw Deputy Amaya arrive and park his vehicle along the north curb line of 142nd Street, a few feet east of Parmelee Avenue. Deputies Flores and Wheeler assisted Deputy Amaya with removing the spike strip from the trunk of his radio car.

Deputy Amaya attempted to deploy the spike strip on Parmelee Avenue, just north of 142nd Street. However, the spike strip was not properly unraveled and the suspect's vehicle drove past the location. As Deputy Flores was standing on the southeast corner of 142nd Street and Parmelee Avenue, he heard over the Sheriff's radio that the suspect's vehicle was traveling westbound 142nd Street. He saw Deputy Amaya deploying the spike strip on 142nd Street in a south to north direction, a few feet east of Parmelee Avenue.

As Deputy Amaya was deploying the spike strip near the southeast portion of 142nd Street, Deputy Flores saw the suspect's vehicle traveling toward Amaya, within three to four feet. Deputy Flores heard Deputy Wheeler yelling out for the suspect to stop. As Deputy Flores was focused on the suspect's vehicle, he heard five to seven gunshots and then saw Deputy Wheeler shooting at the suspect who was inside the vehicle. Deputy Flores saw Deputy Wheeler trip over the spike strip and fall on the ground.

Deputy Flores did not hear the suspect or Deputy Amaya say anything. Deputy Flores said, he was out of the line of fire and standing on the south side of 142nd Street, a few feet west of the officer involved shooting. There were no persons behind Deputy Flores during the time of the shooting. Deputy Flores saw several deputies extract the suspect from the vehicle. Deputy Flores left the shooting location and assisted Compton Fire Department personnel to gain access to the suspect.

NEWS MEDIA VIDEO:

Included is a compact disk recording complied by Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau of the Officer Involved Shooting incident. Refer to **Exhibit F**. The compact disk is approximately 22 minutes long and includes video footage from the following news agencies:

1. ABC News

2. NBC News

3. ABC News

4. CBS News

5. NBC News

6. FOX News

7. KCAL News

Refer to **Exhibit A**, inside Homicide Book, pages 39-40 for the Homicide Bureau Investigators summary of the news video footage.

WITNESS INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS:

The following witness interview was conducted by Homicide Bureau Investigators Sergeant Martin Rodriguez and Detective Angus Ferguson on Tuesday, August 2, 2006.

> **Bolden,** Vergilian, Deputy
> Refer to **Exhibit A**, page 43 for a summary of his interview.

The following witness interviews were conducted by Homicide Bureau Investigators Phil Guzman and Ray Lugo on Tuesday, August 2, 2006.

> **Vizcarra,** Daniel, Deputy
> Refer to **Exhibit A,** pages 54-55, for a summary of his interview.

> **Terry,** Clyde, Deputy
> Refer to **Exhibit A,** pages 51-52, for a summary of his interview.

Wolhope, James, Deputy
Refer to **Exhibit A,** pages 47-48, for a summary of his interview.

Luther, Mike, Deputy
Refer to **Exhibit A**, page 48, for a summary of his interview.

Fernandez, Christopher, Deputy
Refer to **Exhibit A,** pages 48-50, for a summary of his interview.

Devane, Ann, Deputy
Refer to **Exhibit A**, pages 50-51, for a summary of her interview.

Molner, Bradd, Deputy
Refer to **Exhibit A**, pages 52-53, for a summary of his interview.

Johnson, Christopher, Deputy
Refer to **Exhibit A**, pages 53-54, for a summary of his interview.

CIVILIAN WITNESSES:

The following witness interview were conducted by Homicide Bureau investigators on Monday, August 1, 2006 by Detectives Phil Guzman and Ray Lugo.

IAB Note: The following civilian witnesses first stated to Homicide Bureau Investigators that they had seen what happened during the incident. However, they later changed their minds and told the investigators they did not want to get involved. These interviews were not recorded.

[redacted]
Refer to **Exhibit A,** page 46 for a summary of her interview

[redacted]
Refer to **Exhibit A,** page 46 for a summary of her interview

SUSPECT STATEMENT:

No statements were made by the suspect. The suspect was unconscious at the shooting scene and was pronounced dead at the hospital.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BUREAU OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PROSECUTIONS

JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION

STEVE COOLEY • District Attorney
JOHN K. SPILLANE • Chief Deputy District Attorney
CURTIS A. HAZELL • Assistant District Attorney

JANICE L. MAURIZI • Director

January 3, 2007

Captain Raymond Peavy
Homicide Bureau
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
5747 Rickenbacker Road
Commerce, California 90040

Re: J.S.I.D. File # 06-0467
L.A.S.D. File # 006-12956-2874-013

Dear Captain Peavy:

The Justice System Integrity Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has completed its review of the August 1, 2006, fatal shooting of Lawrence Taylor by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy James Wheeler. It is our conclusion that Deputy Wheeler acted in lawful defense of others.

The following analysis is based on reports prepared by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), submitted to this office by Detective Angus Ferguson, LASD Homicide Bureau, on October 25, 2006. The District Attorney's Command Center was notified of the shooting on August 1, 2006, at approximately 8:45 p.m. The District Attorney Response Team, comprised of Deputy District Attorney Christina Fleming Buckley and District Attorney Senior Investigator [redacted] responded and was given a briefing and a walk-through of the scene. District Attorney personnel spoke briefly with a civilian witness.

Deputy Wheeler provided a voluntary statement to investigators and his statement was considered as part of this analysis.

FACTUAL ANALYSIS

On August 1, 2006, at approximately 7:21 p.m., several deputies assigned to the Compton Sheriff's Station and the Century Sheriff's Station responded to an assistance request by Deputy D. Martinez, who was involved in the pursuit of a suspected drunk driver. Air Unit 23 also responded to the area. During the pursuit, the driver, later identified as Lawrence Taylor, committed numerous Vehicle Code violations including the running of

Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3210
(213) 974-3888
WEBSITE: http://da.co.la.ca.us

with other vehicles as well as pedestrians, the Compton Station Watch Commander cancelled the pursuit and advised the pursuing units to maintain surveillance of the vehicle. Air Unit 23 continued to monitor Taylor's progress and kept ground units apprised of the vehicle's direction of travel.

Deputy Robert Amaya, who was in full uniform, responded to the area of Parmalee Avenue and 142nd Street to set up a spike strip. Initially, Deputy Amaya set up the spike strip on Parmalee Avenue. Taylor, however, managed to get around the spike strip and flee the area. When Deputy Amaya heard over the radio that the suspect had returned to the area and was traveling westbound on 142nd Street, Deputy Amaya grabbed the spike strip and began to reposition it across 142nd Street. Out of the corner of his eye, Deputy Amaya saw the suspect vehicle suddenly swerve in his direction. Deputy Amaya feared that he was going to be run over and quickly turned to get out of the way. As he scrambled toward the curb, he heard another deputy yelling, "Stop the car," followed by five to six gunshots

Deputy Wheeler and his partner, Joel Flores, were on patrol when they responded to the area of the pursuit. They positioned their patrol car at the intersection of 142nd Street and Parmalee Avenue and were present when the suspect vehicle evaded Deputy Amaya's first attempt to stop him with the spike strip. As Deputy Wheeler continued to monitor the suspect's route via the Sheriff's radio, he learned that the suspect was headed back toward their location. Deputy Wheeler, who was also in full uniform, got out of his car in order to provide cover for Deputy Amaya as he repositioned the spike strip across 142nd Street. As Deputy Amaya dragged the spike strip into position, Deputy Wheeler saw the suspect vehicle approaching the intersection traveling approximately thirty to forty miles per hour. When Deputy Wheeler saw that the vehicle was headed in the direction of Deputy Amaya he attempted to distract the driver and repeatedly yelled at him to stop. Believing that Deputy Amaya was about to be run over, Deputy Wheeler fired several rounds at the suspect. As the suspect's vehicle continued to travel forward, the spike strip became entangled in the vehicle's rear axle causing the strip to whip around and strike Deputy Wheeler on the legs knocking him to the ground. After getting back onto his feet he saw the vehicle had come to a stop and the driver was not moving. No further shots were fired.

Several civilian witnesses were interviewed. Most of the witnesses stated that they only heard the gunshots and did not see what happened. However, two people stated they witnessed the incident. The first witness told deputies that she saw two police officers placing a black object on the ground when the suspect vehicle "tried to run over the officers." She stated that she then saw one of the officers shoot the driver. Later, when the witness was contacted by investigators, she changed her story. She stated that she did not actually see the shooting because she had gone into the house to answer the phone. The witness agreed to go to Compton Station with the investigators to make a statement, however, she asked them to give her fifteen minutes so she could call her [redacted] at work. When the investigators returned to transport the witness to the station, she refused

to go to the station and she [illegible]
change of heart and told investigators she no longer wanted to give a statement.

There were several deputies who saw the suspect vehicle as it traveled westbound on 142nd Street toward Parmalee Avenue. These witnesses saw the vehicle suddenly swerve toward Deputy Amaya in an apparent attempt to run him over. It appeared to the witnesses that Deputy Amaya was either struck or was about to be struck by the vehicle as he stumbled toward the curb. The witnesses within earshot heard Deputy Wheeler as he yelled at the vehicle to stop before firing several rounds at the driver.

Additionally, there were at least two news helicopters overhead filming the pursuit and the shooting. News footage shot by Channel 4 News and Channel 7 News was reviewed. The footage showed Taylor's vehicle as it traveled westbound on 142nd Street toward Parmalee Avenue. Also visible on the tape is Deputy Amaya as he stretched the spike strip across the intersection. The footage clearly shows that as Taylor's vehicle reached the intersection, he made a sharp left-hand turn onto Parmalee Avenue. In either an attempt to avoid the spike strip, or to run over Deputy Amaya, or both, Taylor turned the vehicle in the direction of Deputy Amaya who was close to the southeast curb. Deputy Amaya can be seen dropping the spike strip and attempting to move out of the path of the approaching vehicle.

Just as the vehicle started to veer toward Deputy Amaya, Deputy Wheeler can be seen running toward and then alongside the passenger side of the vehicle pointing and then discharging his weapon. Deputy Wheeler stated that from his vantage point, it was apparent that Deputy Amaya was in imminent danger of being struck by the vehicle. After he made eye contact with Taylor and saw the vehicle accelerate toward Deputy Amaya, he discharged his weapon in an attempt to protect Deputy Amaya.

Taylor sustained four gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead later that evening at Saint Francis Hospital. A post mortem examination was performed on August 3, 2006, by Doctor Solom Riley, Deputy Medical Examiner. The cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds.

CONCLUSION

According to the law in California, the use of deadly force in self-defense or in the defense of others is justifiable if the person claiming the right to use self-defense actually and reasonably believed (1) that he or she, or the person who he or she was defending was in imminent danger of death or great bodily injury, and (2) that it was necessary under the circumstances to use deadly force to avoid such imminent death or great bodily injury.

Based on the evidence presented, Lawrence Taylor refused to comply with numerous orders to stop his vehicle and initiated a police pursuit. During the vehicle pursuit, Taylor was involved in several near collisions with other vehicles and pedestrians. Taylor's disregard for the safety of others forced the watch commander to cancel the

ground when Taylor drove at him. Deputy Wheeler's use of deadly force was both reasonable and necessary to protect Deputy Amaya who was in danger of being killed by the vehicle driven by Taylor. Therefore, we are closing our file and will take no further action in this matter.

Very truly yours,

STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

By *Christina F. Buckley*

CHRISTINA FLEMING BUCKLEY
Deputy District Attorney
(213) 974-4649

c: Deputy James Wheeler, #[redacted]